

Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 25, 2010

The meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Board), was called to order at 8:45 a.m., Friday, June 25, 2010, at 8280 YMCA Plaza Drive, Building 8-B, Baton Rouge, LA 70810. Present were Board Members, Drs. Jillandra Rovaris, Joseph Comaty, John C. Courtney, and Tony Young; Executive Director, Jaime Monic; Complaints Coordinator, Dr. C. Gary Pettigrew; and, Dr. Rovaris' successor, Dr. Rita Culross.

Dr. Comaty moved to accept the minutes of April 16-17, 2010. The motion passed. Dr. Courtney moved to accept the minutes of May 2, 2010. The motion passed. Dr. Comaty moved to accept the minutes of May 14, 2010. The motion passed. Dr. Comaty moved to accept the minutes of May 26, 2010. The motion passed.

Dr. Courtney moved to enter Executive Session to conduct file reviews and oral examinations pursuant to LSA R.S.42:6.1(4). The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote of the members present as follows: Rovaris - yea, Comaty - yea, Courtney - yea, and Young - yea.

Dr. Rovaris moved to close Executive Session to enter the following:

Bond vs. LSBEP - Ms. Monic provided information to the Board that Dr. Trudy Bond's Appeal with the First Circuit Court of Appeal's was not successful. The appeals court found that Bond, "...without the showing of some special interest in the performance sought of a public board, which is separate and distinct from the interest of the public at large...will not be permitted to proceed..." further that "...a citizen has no standing in court to champion a cause or subject matter that pertains to the whole people in common, nor has an individual citizen legal standing in court to enforce the performance of a duty owed to the general public."

Dr. Comaty moved that the related decision in *Coggeshall v. Massachusetts Board of Registration of Psychologists* related to a federal appeal be forwarded to Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips for their records. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Courtney moved that the Board consult legal counsel in billing Trudy Bond for legal costs incurred by the Board as a result of the lawsuits filed in the 19th JDC and the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals. The motion passed by roll call vote as follows: Rovaris - yea, Courtney - yea, Comaty - yea, and Young - yea,

Dr. Courtney moved that the Board consult its attorney in turning over documentation to Dr. Bond's licensing board to investigate Dr. Bond's ethic in the pursuit of her complaint filed with the Board which resulted in her lawsuit against the Board in the 19th JDC and subsequently the First Circuit Court of Appeals. The motion passed by roll call vote as follows: Rovaris - yea, Courtney - yea, Comaty - yea, and Young - nay.

P09-10-06C - Dr. Pettigrew presented this matter to the Board. After careful consideration, Dr. Courtney moved that the matter be closed without further action. The motion passed unanimously.

The Baton Rouge Test Center - Dr. Comaty presented this matter to the Board. After careful consideration, Dr. Courtney moved that a letter be drafted to the Attorney of the Center reminding them of their previous agreement with the Board regarding the advertisement of Psychological Services. The motion passed unanimously.

Allyson D. Bennett, Ph.D. appeared before Board members Rovaris, Comaty, Courtney and Young for an oral examination for licensure. Dr. Comaty moved that the Board grant Dr. Bennett a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Clinical Psychology effective June 25, 2010. The motion unanimously passed.

Tony Chi-Chang Wu, Ph.D. appeared before Board members Rovaris, Comaty, Courtney and Young for an oral examination for licensure. Dr. Courtney moved that the Board grant Dr. Wu a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in School Psychology effective July 1, 2010. The motion unanimously passed.

Corinne N. Ortega, Ph.D. appeared before Board members Rovaris, Comaty, Courtney and Young for an oral examination for licensure. Dr. Young moved that the Board grant Dr. Ortega a license to practice psychology with a declared specialty in Counseling Psychology effective August 1, 2010. The motion unanimously passed.

Supervision and Credentials Recommendations:

The Supervision/Credentials Committee conducted file reviews and made recommendations as follows:

Dr. Comaty moved to table the review and discussion of **Melanie Wheeler's** application until such time that a minimum of four board members may be present to consider any motions presented. The motion passed by majority vote as follows: Rovaris – yea, Comaty – yea, Courtney – yea, Young – recused.

Dr. Young, upon review of the application file for licensure of **Rafael Angel Salas, Psy.D.**, recommended that the Board confirm the candidacy of Dr. Salas and invite him to sit for the oral examination for licensure. The Board unanimously accepted this recommendation.

Dr. Comaty, upon review of the application file for licensure of **Julia Wood, Ph.D.**, recommended that the Board confirm the candidacy of Dr. Wood and invite her to sit for the oral examination for licensure. The Board unanimously accepted this recommendation.

Dr. Courtney, upon review of the application file for licensure of **David T. Weibel, Ph.D.**, recommended that the Board confirm the candidacy of Dr. Weibel and invite him to sit for the oral examination for licensure. The Board unanimously accepted this recommendation.

Dr. Young, upon review of the application file for licensure of **Michele M. Martel, Ph.D.**, recommended that the Board confirm the candidacy of Dr. Martel and invite her to sit for the oral examination for licensure. The Board unanimously accepted this recommendation.

Dr. Young, upon review of the application file for licensure of **Geralyn Datz, Ph.D.**, recommended that the Board confirm the candidacy of Dr. Datz and invite her to sit for the oral examination for licensure. The Board unanimously accepted this recommendation.

Dr. Comaty, upon review of the Temporary Registration of **Dr. Jack Spector**, moved that Dr. Spector be granted a Temporary Registration in Louisiana effective July 1, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Comaty, upon review of the Temporary Registration of **Dr. Krishnan Mohandie**, moved that Dr. Mohandie be granted a Temporary Registration in Louisiana effective upon receipt of a current copy of Dr. Mohandie's license to practice psychology in the state of California.

Dr. Courtney, upon review of the request for Emeritus Status of **Dr. Merikay M. Ringer**, found that Dr. Ringer did not meet the requirements for Emeritus Status and moved that the Board deny this request. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Comaty moved that the Board send a letter to Dr. David Wheeler concerning supervision of individuals in non-APA approved internship programs and the Board's requirements for licensure. The motion passed by majority vote as follows: Rovaris – yea, Comaty – yea, Courtney – yea, Young – recused.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee:

The Board reviewed the April 2010 Financial Statements prepared by Ouida Nugent, CPA.

The Board reviewed the financial standing of the legal contract with Taylor, Porter, Brooks and Philips, LLC (Lloyd Lunceford and Amy Groves Lowe). Ms. Monic reported that an additional amendment was filed to continue legal services through the end of the 2009-10FY for an amount not to exceed \$26,200. The Board affirmed this action.

Legislative Coordinator: Dr. Comaty reported that the 2010 Regular Session had ended and that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 100 had passed in lieu of SB 213 and HB 742. All other proposed legislation of concern to the Board did not pass. Dr. Comaty also requested that Ms. Monic investigate what the Board needs to do to be able to discuss its legislative needs with legislators.

Continuing Education Committee: Drs. Courtney and Young reported that continuing education reviews were underway and proceeding smoothly.

There was no report from the following committees: Oral Examination Committee, Liaison to Professional Organizations and Boards, Long Range Planning Committee, or the Complaints Committee.

Dr. Julie Nelson with the Psychology Times and Dr. Thomas Hannie joined the meeting in progress at approximately 3:00 pm

Discussion Items:

Inquiry from J. Philip Towns, Ph.D. – The Board reviewed the letter sent to Dr. Towns by Ms. Monic in response to his inquiry and also received public comments from Dr. Hannie on the matter.

SCR 100 (SB213/HB742) – The Board reviewed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 100. In accordance with the provisions of that resolution, Dr. Rovaris appointed Drs. Comaty and Young to represent the Board on the Behavioral Health Professional Working Group. Drs. Comaty and Young offered their availability in order that a meeting could be facilitated prior to the August 1, 2010 deadline. It was requested that Ms. Monic make contact with the other organizations and also notify the Joint Health and Welfare Committee of Board's appointments to this committee.

Opinion #006: Records Retention – The Board reviewed the information provided by Dr. Comaty regarding the need to update Opinion #006. Dr. Comaty recommended that the Board revise the Opinion, and offered to begin working on a draft for consideration at a later date. The Board unanimously accepted this recommendation.

Website Links – Dr. Courtney inquired about the history of the website links, with a request to include additional resources for the public. After receiving information regarding the links page, Dr. Courtney withdrew his request.

ASPPB Membership – Dr. Comaty moved to continue membership with ASPPB for the 2010-11 FY. The motion passed unanimously.

ASPPB Survey (Masters level clinicians) – Dr. Comaty moved that the Board review the survey and provide information to Ms. Monic to participate in the survey. The motion passed unanimously.

Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 46, Part LXIII. Psychologists – Ms. Monic provided a copy of the current LAC: 46 as well as drafts of the following definitions agreed to at the April 16, 2010 LRP meeting: “Client/Patient, Day, and Residency”. After discussing the best format for inserting the proposed revisions, Dr. Comaty moved to incorporate the definitions into the draft to be included in the next Notice of Intent filed with the LA Register, with no specific timeline for publication. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Rovaris opened nominations for Chair of the Board for the 2010-11FY. Dr. Courtney nominated Dr. Comaty to Chair. No other nominations were made. Dr. Comaty was elected as LSBEP’s Chair by unanimous roll call vote.

Dr. Rovaris opened nominations for Vice Chair of the Board for the 2010-11FY. Dr. Comaty nominated Dr. Young for Vice Chair. No other nominations offered. Dr. Young was elected as LSBEP’s Vice Chair by unanimous roll call vote.

Julie Nelson requested to address the Board on the matter of her role with the Psychology Times. The Board welcomed Dr. Nelson’s written and oral comments on this matter. Dr. Rovaris thanked her for her presentation.

4:30 p.m. Adjourn